

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****25 NOVEMBER 2013****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES****ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2013 – UPDATE  
AGAINST KEY IMPROVEMENT AREAS****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a mid-year update to the Committee on those areas identified for improvement included within the Council's 2012/13 approved AGS.

**Key Improvement Areas 2013/14**

2. At its meeting on 14 June 2013 the Committee approved the 2012/13 AGS. There were no changes to the AGS since its presentation to the Committee at its meeting on 14 June 2013 (as was reported to the Committee on 2 September) and a copy of the final signed statement accompanied the Annual Statement of Accounts which has now been published on the Council's website.
3. The County Council's review of effectiveness concluded that overall financial management and corporate governance arrangements were sound. To ensure that this continues to be the case, during the assurance gathering process development areas were also identified.
4. Section 4 of the 2012/13 AGS includes a table which describes those areas identified for improvement during the review period 2012/13 and to carry forward for monitoring within 2013/14. Appendix 1 to this report provides a mid-year progress update. The Committee will be pleased to note that there have been some moves forward under every area identified. Whilst many action plans are still work in progress, the overall response is positive and encouraging.
5. Implementing actions to address identified issues will ensure that gaps identified within the County Council's current control environment will be filled and strengthened and this will further enhance overall governance arrangements.

**Recommendations**

6. The Committee is requested to note the content of this report and the progress detailed in Appendix 1.

**Resource Implications**

None.

**Equal Opportunities Implications**

None.

**Background Papers**

Report to the Corporate Governance Committee 14 June 2013 – ‘Annual Governance Statement 2012/13’

Report to the Corporate Governance Committee 2 September 2013 – ‘Annual Governance Statement 2012/13’

**Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert procedure**

None

**Officers to Contact**

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**List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 - Key Improvement Areas for 2013/14